

DRAFT

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the May 14, 2012 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Joan Quarto (2012), Joan Terry, (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marilyn Gerling (Sr. Ctr. Assn.), Emil Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill), Jan Scottron (Glen Ridge)

STAFF: Cindy Dainton (St. Ctr. Coord.), Barbara Winslow (Sr. Social Worker), Kevin Grunwald (Dir. Of Human Services)

REGRETS: Will Bigl (2012), Carol Pellegrine (2012)

ABSENT: Don Nolan (2014)

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence – April reported that she received a letter from the League of Women Voters thanking her for speaking at their recent meeting.

Wellness Center – Kevin said the meeting at the Senior Center with Rep. Joe Courtney and a representative from the Medicare Advocacy office regarding the future of Medicare was well attended. Barbara Winslow told us she is joining a group that meets at Generations in hopes that this will lead to a closer connection with that agency. She also reported that she is setting up meetings at various senior living communities to discuss emergency preparedness.

Senior Center – Cindy passed out copies of her April report plus the current issue of the Sparks newsletter. Triad has arranged meetings at Juniper Hill and Glen Ridge regarding internet scams. Cindy said that TVCCA is no longer willing to provide meals for large groups and so caterers are being

used on the third Wednesdays since the groups are consistently over 40. There will be an increase in the price of that lunch, hopefully not over \$10.

Senior Center Association – Marilyn encouraged us to attend the bazaar at the Senior Center this coming Saturday. She also told us that she plans to resign as president of the Senior Center Association effective June 20. The new sign at the Center has been installed.

Community Information – Emil said that Jensen's will dedicate their new pool on May 23. Martina reported that 8 Juniper Hill residents attended the Joe Courtney speech and several joined the Senior Center while there. Jan Scottron said she is ready to step down as the Glen Ridge representative after serving many years. Kevin reported that Paradigm Health is looking for investors for a senior living facility and they have identified a site that has water.

New Business - Three of our members have terms that end in 2012: Carol Pellegrine, Will Bigl, and Joan Quarto. Will is willing to be reappointed and suggestions for two other members are welcome. Anyone interested in serving can apply via the internet on the Town of Mansfield site. Also, we consider officers for the coming year at our June meeting.

Strategic Plan – April read a letter that the Commission plans to send to the Town Council regarding the need for additional senior center space. With minor changes, the letter was approved and Joan Quarto made a motion to send it to the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Jan Scottron and passed. Another of our goals is to lobby for a bus shelter on S. Eagleville Road near the community center. Kevin will check on the status of this matter.

Meeting with League of Women Voters – A speaker from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was recommended by Gloria Bent, chair of the meeting when April spoke. April will follow up to see if someone would come to talk to us about their study on Cost to Seniors to Age in Place.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, secretary

Next Meeting – June 11

Mansfield 202 Strategic Plan

Senior Services Action Items

1. Encourage the Town Council to build a new Senior Center to meet the need for additional meeting space and parking.
2. Establish a Board of Senior Citizens to oversee and coordinate senior affairs, i.e. Assisted Living
3. Maintain a listing of agencies that provide home care and health services to seniors who choose to remain in their homes
4. Improve local transportation system to benefit all levels of our population.

5. Provide local tax relief for residents who are 70 years and older.
6. Encourage area businesses to provide part- or full-time employment opportunities for seniors.
7. Explore possibility of hosting Senior Summer Olympics in conjunction with UConn.

Proposed Goals for the
Commission on Aging, 2011-2012

1. Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
2. Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
3. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefits programs.
4. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.

